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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 18 December 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you in connection with the draft resolution entitled "Situation of human rights in Kosovo", prepared by Albania, which was adopted by the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 1995 (A/50/635/Add.3, para. 16 and para. 76, draft resolution III) and, upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to make the following comments.

The draft resolution addresses only one aspect of the situation in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija and does so in a highly biased, unbalanced and unconstructive manner. At the same time, the draft resolution ignores the root cause of the problems in Kosovo and Metohija, which is the unbridled separatism of parts of the Albanian minority.

The leadership of the Albanian minority in Kosovo and Metohija illegally declared an independent state in 1995 in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the Paris Charter of the CSCE as well as the Convention of the Council of Europe on National Minorities.

The People's Assembly of the Republic of Albania recognized "the Republic of Kosovo" as a sovereign and independent state on 22 October 1991 (A/C.1/50/4, annex), in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and international legal instruments.

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How is it possible that the draft resolution on the situation of human rights in Kosovo blatantly ignores the said fundamental facts? We hope that all Member States shall take into account the said facts when deciding whether it is appropriate to support the draft resolution.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 112 (c).

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.